

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/497,021

Applicant(s)

GOYINS ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin M. Nguyen

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Board of Patent Appeal's decision filed 9/24/2007 and amendment filed 10/24/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12, 15 and 16 renumbered as claims 1-14.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.


**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
RICHARD HJERPE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Based on decision by the Board of Patent Appeals, filed 9/24/2007, the Board writes its decision, affirming the examiner's answer in part as follow:

Claims 17-20 and 24-28 are affirmed.

Claims 1-16 and 21-23 are reversed.

New grounds of rejection were entered against claims 13, 14, 16 and 21-23.

2. The amendment to claims 1-12, 15 and 16 filed on 10/24/2007, which is entered. Applicant's arguments, see page 5, with respect to the amendment have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-12, 15 and 16 has been withdrawn.

3. Claims 1-12, 15 and 16 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: with respect to the independent claims, the prior art of record does not fairly teach:

Claim 1 recited "a switchable polarizer for optical projection displays, said switchable polarizer comprising: a first electrode having a first set of contacts; a second electrode having a second set of contacts; and a layer of liquid crystal material positioned between the first and second electrodes; wherein the first electrode conducts current between said first set of contacts to heat the polarizer, and wherein the second electrode conducts current between said second set of contacts to heat the polarizer."

Claim 15 recited "a method of driving a switchable polarizer in one of two modes, the switchable polarizer having first and second electrodes and a liquid crystal

material between the electrodes, wherein during a first driving mode, the electrodes heat the liquid crystal material, while during the second driving mode, the electrodes do not heat the liquid crystal material, said method comprising: drawing equal currents through the first and second electrodes during the first driving mode, wherein the drawing of currents through the electrodes includes coupling the electrodes to two current sources; and applying a first voltage signal to the first electrode and a second voltage signal to the second electrode during both the first and second driving modes, the first and second voltage signals sustaining the currents drawn through the first and second electrodes during the first driving mode, wherein the applying of the voltage signals to the electrodes includes coupling each electrode to an output of an amplifier.”

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KEVIN M. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-7697. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-THU from 8:00-6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, a supervisor RICHARD A. HJERPE can be reached on 571-272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8000.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the Patent Application Information Retrieval system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kevin M. Nguyen  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2629

KMN  
November 5, 2007



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